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1969/02/19

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(a) Deptel 24603, (b) Warran 439 controlled by S. a. Cat. C - Caption and company retained by S/S.

Reviewed by Hijzh Kelly Jr

Warcaw Talks: Prisoners

E Before delivering prisoner letter to CPR Embassy, we

rocommend: (a) adding phrase to para relating to Lt. Dunn at end of first sentence. QUOTE ... request for information (add) as to whether Lt. Dunn is alive or dead. END QUOTE. (b) in penultimate para, change QUOTE prisoners END QUOTE to QUOTE individuals KND QUOTE in first sentence. (c) drop last para completely.

- Remainder of letter would be left unchanged and we would recommend against inclusion of any reference to
- 3. Believe we should not RPT not include any reference to individuals involved in HK yacht incident in present lettor. Te are not in position anke recommendations on gacht incident from all angles but believe it may be

Drafted by: AB: Walter J. Stoessel, J

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preferable at present time to avoid handling this problem through Warsaw and focus on seeking intercession by other involved Govts for release of boats and all passengers. By raising yacht incident here we may emphasize US aspect and intensify political overtones of problem while other channels still remain open for low-key handling of incident. If other nationals involved in yacht incident released and US citizens continue be held by Peking, we will naturally have to consider approaching ChiComs here as well.

- 4. We would anticipate that call on Chinese Embassy would become known to press locally, and do not consider this undesirable.
- 5. When asked purpose of call, we would answer that

  LIMITED Concerning
  letter LONG US prisoners and missing persons in China
  was delivered. In response to questions concerning other
  matters discussed we would offer no further comment.

  Should we be asked whether we discussed question of
  Americans aboard yachts detained by Uninese, we would
  acknowledge they not included in letter we delivered

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Approving Officer:

Concurrence:

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and refer to Dept for Turther comment.

S. Regarding further handling Chicom action on Ambassadorial talks, we suggest that emphasis be placed on Chinese chrase "current atmosphere" not "suitable" for this and avoid stressing Chinese "cancellation" of talks. While we have no doubt Chinese intent to cancel 135th meeting, we should avoid giving appearance at this time this may be more than a postponement.

7. If Kreisberg and Anderson call on Chinese Embassy on Feb. 20 or later, approach in para 1 (a) ref (b) would obviously be dropped.

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